

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Jolette Westbrook

PERSON

Westbrook, Jolette, 1956-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Jolette Westbrook;

Life Dates: December 10, 1956-

Place of Birth: Buffalo, New York, USA

Residence: Sagamore Beach, MA

Work: Boston, MA

Occupations: Lawyer; State Government Official

Biographical Note

Attorney Jolette Westbrook was born in 1956 in Buffalo, New York; her parents operated a news agency. Westbrook attended Public School #93, Public School #74, and West Hertle Middle School. At St. Joseph's High School, Westbrook's role model was Reverend Joseph Moore; she graduated in 1974 and entered Russell Sage College. There, Westbrook was elected student government president, played in the state volleyball championship, and traveled to England. Graduating with her B.S. degree in criminal science in 1978, Westbrook entered Northeastern University Law School's Cooperative Program and worked as an intern with Greater Boston Legal Services; she earned her J.D. degree in 1981.

Westbrook served as clerk for the Honorable Charles Grabau, associate justice of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1981. In 1982, Westbrook joined the Supreme Judicial Court Bar in Massachusetts and began working for the National Institute for Paralegal Studies as an instructor in the areas of legal research and writing, corporations, and family law. Westbrook joined the firm of Dawkins and Quarles in 1983, where she worked in the area of juvenile law. Westbrook became managing attorney, supervising the appellate work and case loads of attorneys and paralegals for the Southeastern Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (SMLAC). Later, Westbrook joined the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Consumer Affairs as Director of the State's Lemon Law Arbitration Program. After 1991, Westbrook worked with the Department of Public Utilities and became the Director of the Energy Facilities Siting Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In April

of 2009, Westbrook was appointed Commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities by Governor Deval Patrick.

Westbrook was admitted to the United States Supreme Court bar membership in 1996. In 2005, she was appointed a member of the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Committee. The recipient of numerous awards, Westbrook was an avid tennis player, and coach of youth basketball and soccer.

Related Entries

St. Joseph's High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 74 [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

West Hertle Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Russell Sage College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Northeastern University School of Law [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Clerkship with the Honorable Charles Grabau [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to ?]

Legal Clerk

Dawkins and Quarles [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Attorney

Division of Employment Security [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Attorney

Southeastern Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 1989]

Managing Attorney

Department of Telecommunications and Energy [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to ?]

General Counsel/Director

Judicial Nominating Commission [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

